71. Opening of a canal from Changanchery to Alleppey.

Mr. Ouseph Oommen (Member, Changanachery taluk) stated that his representation had already formed the subject of the representation of another Member, Mr. Chandi Thomas. He therefore requested that Mr. Thomas might be allowed to speak for him also, and retired after handing over his written representation.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

72. Needs of the Ambalapuzha taluk.

Mr. Chandi Thomas (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that the most urgent need of the taluk was the opening of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal. The urgency of the work would be evident from the representations made in the Assembly and the memorials submitted to the Government. The work was not only one of local importance, but of general utility to the people of Kuttanad. He said that Government were deriving a large revenue from Kuttanad and prayed that at least a small portion of that revenue might be devoted to the benefit of the people of Kuttanad. Government had recognised the urgency of the work and had opened a canal from Alleppey to Kainakari. It was not clear why the work should have been left at that stage. There was at present no direct route between Alleppey and Changanchery and the people suffered great hardship on account of the absence of the above canal. The construction of the canal would greatly facilitate trade, agriculture and communication. The work was not so costly as might appear at first sight. There were many natural waterways which could be connected. The proposed waterway had to be extended from Kainakari to Kavalam, the distance being only 3 miles. He prayed that at least one mile might be taken up each year and the work completed in three years. The lands to be acquired for the work were mostly Kandukrishi lands, and the private lands to be acquired would cost only about Rs. 5,000. He said that after the alignment was fixed the people would be prepared to do the sinking of the canal. In consideration of the manifold advantages of the work, he prayed that it might be taken up and finished early.

The Member next referred to the Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road. Government had promised at the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly that the road from Tiruvalla to Edattuva would be taken up ; but nothing had been done in the matter so far. He prayed that the work might be taken in hand and completed without delay.

Lastly, he expressed satisfaction at the proposal of the Government to open a dispensary at Alleppey of the type he had in mind and prayed that it might be located at the eastern end of the town, so that it might be of use to the people of Kuttanad also.

President's reply.—The question of the location of the proposed dispensary at the eastern end of the Alleppey town near Chungam is under correspondence. Your representation in the matter is noted. You referred to the road from Edattuva to Talavadi. There is a road already ; and it is maintained by the P. W. D. You want that it should be improved. The matter will be looked into. In regard to the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, you say that what is wanted is only the opening of short connections between the existing waterways, *i. e.*, the Kainakari and the Kavalam rivers, so as to render the route useful for agriculture and navigation. The necessary investigation will be made and an estimate prepared. The petition received by the Chief Engineer also says that the people are willing to do the work provided that the Government give the tools free. That point is also noted.

73. Some needs of the Minachil taluk.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil taluk) stated that the subjects to be discusssed by him were not new, as all of them had come up for representation at previous sessions of the Assembly. For instance, a bridge across the Minachil river had been prayed for about 12 years ago. Last year a small sum was sanctioned for it ; but no work had been commenced so far.

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The Member urged that the following works be sanctioned :—

(*a*) 1. The immediate construction of the bridge across the Minachil river on the road from Lalam to Ponkunnam.

2. The construction of two landing ghats—one near the Palai market and the other at the place where the road from the Cutcherry terminated by the side of the river.

(*b*) Making the following roads cartable :—

1. The road from Piravittanam meeting the Ampara-Mankompu road near the Plasanal Church.

2. The road from Punjar to the 31st mile, Kottaym-Kumili road.

3. The village road from Erattupetta to Arakkulam and the village road as far as the Kurumannur market, inclusive of the ryots' road constructed up to Melkavu-Trippada.

(*c*) 1. Metalling the Lalam-Todupuzha road and the Lalam-Erattupetta road.

2. Completion of the Lalam-Ramapuram road.

3. Improvement of the Pizhaku-Melkavu road and the Ampara-Mankompu road.

(*d*) The construction of bridges :—

1. across the river at Erattupetta ; and

2. across the canal through which the Kadanad-Pizhaku road passes near the Kadanad Church.

President's reply.—For the Lalam-Punjar road, special funds to the extent of Rs. 4,000 have been sanctioned. The necessary repairs will be taken in hand and finished as early as possible. Rs. 5,000 have been sanctioned for constructing the Minachil bridge. The Chief Engineer says that the work has been arranged for.

An estimate for the construction of one landing ghat at Pala is being prepared. The construction of another landing ghat will have to be considered later.

Then you referred to the road from Piravittanam. It is a foot-path nearly six miles in length, opened by the people. It is not cartable. The path is useless for cart traffic in its present condition and has to be re traced. The Public Works Department cannot take it up till then. A report will, however, be called for.

As regards the road from Punjar to the 31st mile, Kottayam-Kumili road, it has to be opened as a ryots' road, and the people will have to do it. If they do it, the Government will take it over for maintenance.

Regarding the completion of the Lalam-Ramapuram road, deviations are necessary in the 2nd and 3rd miles. Only a width of 22 ft. is needed. When the Dewan went on circuit to that place, he asked the people whether they would give the lands free. The matter is under correspondence. Land plans will be called for and the necessary action taken. The Government will do all that is possible to complete the road at an early date. For repairing the 6th, 7th and 8th miles of that road, an estimate for Rs. 1,625 is under scrutiny and it will be soon sanctioned.

All the works for metalling the Lalam-Todupuzha road are being done, and a supplementary grant has been sanctioned for improving the portion from the 10th to the 12th mile.

Government are trying to maintain the Pizhaku-Melkavu road and the Ampara Mankompu road in good condition. A special estimate will be called for to make the Ampara-Mankompu road cartable.

The construction of the bridge across the Minachil river at Erattupetta will have to wait till the construction of the bridge at Lalam. You request the construction of a bridge on the Kadanad-Pizhaku road near the Kadanad Church. Government have sanctioned Rs. 800 for providing a junghar. Instead of this you want a bridge. The matter will be considered.

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